



# DEVNAR

The Quarterly News Letter

**Jyothi**



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**His Excellency Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh inaugurating 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Celebrations.**



**Mrs. Vimala Narasimhan, First Lady releasing "Towards Excellence Souvenir".**

## From childhood to adulthood

LILY EGBERT



### From the Principal's desk

I am writing this on children's day when our attention is drawn to the most fascinating section of society namely, children. Children are the ones who fill our hearts with joy and pride, our homes with delight and the school with boisterous energy. Their innocence, trust, dependence, curiosity and cheerfulness give meaning to life and we realise that unless we practise these in our lives like children life would lose most of its charm. Time marches relentlessly on. My mind received a jolt when I realised that the children who were in Kindergarten when I came to Devnar School are now in class X. They are almost ready to leave the school and they will no longer be "Children". It made me realise the value of the quality and quantity of time we give them in their formative years when they are with us.

The children who were in the high school when I came to Devnar School are already in responsible positions in life and are able to contribute a lot to society. Their confidence

and earning capacity give us tremendous satisfaction. Some are working in Corporate Companies, M.N.C s, banks, universities, schools and other places. One works as a lecturer in Delhi University and briefs me now and then as to what latest books he thinks I should read. He is very keen to complete his PhD within a short time and I know he will do it. The ones who work in companies like G.E, Wipro and other reputed places discharge their work to the satisfaction of everyone. Two students went to U.K to take part in an international cricket tournament and won all the matches. The one who works in S.B.I. serves the customers efficiently. I have picked only a handful and in the next issue, we will publish the comprehensive list of all those who are employed.

"If knowledge is the currency of the 21st century", our students have accumulated great wealth indeed. If success is doing what we enjoy doing, we in Devnar are highly successful, for, "the greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say the children are now working as if I did not exist". If hope is the ability to hear the music of the future, the melodies I hear are rich, vibrant and full of promise.

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## Our Time in India

- Siobhan Foy & Caliana Jakes

After attending a week long selection course on the Isle of Coll, Scotland, we were selected to spend twelve months teaching English at Devnar School for the Blind. We arrived in India at the end of August, 2010, and we live alongside the children in the school hostel.

We are currently teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class in the morning and we also help the older children with their studies in the evening.

Having never worked with blind children before,



it was challenging at first, but everyday we learn something new; Braille slates, types and tape recorders have become part of our daily routine.

The school has a number of facilities that were completely new to us, including talking computers, the Braille printing room and the tactile science lab. It is a pleasure working with such amazing children and we are really looking forward to the rest of our time here.

## Power of Peace

(Essay selected for Interschool competition organized by Lion's Club)

Mansi S. Dhaliya - Class VII

There is a song by Michael Jackson, that goes - Heal the world; Make it a better place, for me and the entire human race.

The question is 'How can we make this world a better place, the answer is The Power of Peace. It is the essence of life.

Let's take the example of Kashmir. There people live lives of fear and depression. The people's lives are in constant danger. Mostly girls confine themselves to the four walls for fear. Trade is paralyzed, development has come to a stand still, there is violence, politics and many ethnical conflicts.

Politics is often full of corruption. It is selfishness of a few people who will go to any length to acquire what they need. Just a few and they are destroying other people's lives. All wars and unrest all over the world have been politically motivated. Leaders should have the good of the people in mind. They should work towards the upliftment of society.

Violence is ruling the world now. Everyday we hear people being murdered or attacked. There are many things that lead to violence, like poverty, unemployment, ethnic conflicts etc. Imagine what a peaceful world would be like!

There are many remedies in the power of peace. Education

is the most important step towards achieving world peace. By education ethnic conflicts can be reduced. Our Government should install these principles in children, because they are the future and if they are educated there will be peace.

We the children of today can make peace in our own way and this small difference will show the way for many people. A few ways in which we can do this is by not quarrelling with one another, by not insulting a classmate and by helping everybody. This would result in peace.

Every country must take strict measures to control population and try to provide employment and this would result in world peace and unity. Thus if we want to make the world a better place, use The Power of Peace.

The real victories are achieved by the power of peace and not by war. Mahatma Gandhi taught us the virtues of peace and non-violence. Peace is the freedom to let live, to be wise, to trust, to co-operate and to think with ones own brain.

Peace is like a pair of wings that take a bird far. Oh my friends, peace will make us prosperous. So we students and the children of India must believe in the Power of Peace to make our motherland prosperous.



Dr. Jayaprakash Narayana, M.L.A., President, Lok Sabha Party honouring the visually challenged teacher.



Dr. Jayaprakash Narayana, M.L.A., President, Lok Sabha Party interacting with visually challenged students.

## Gratitude is the Heart's Memory

CLASS X STUDENTS, 2010-2011

We wish to share some of our thoughts with you before we leave the school. People say that everything is made by God. He made a truly great person whose dream brought Devnar School into existence. Our founder chairman Padmashri Dr.A.S.Goud planted a seed 19 years ago and now it has grown into a beautiful tree which is known all over the world. From the branches of a tree sprout tender green leaves, but from Devnar School sprout very special students who are visually challenged and differently abled.

Before coming to this school, we thought we were a burden to our parents and society. But now we are confident that we can support not only our parents but other members of society also. Our school has built up our self confidence, gave us awareness of good and evil, courage and many other valuable traits. We have excellent and lovable teachers who make the institution proud. We were like curtains for a stage which hide the view but our teachers have made us see things clearly. We want to write about two pillars of the school. Mr&Mrs.Egbert. They are a big asset to the school. They are old but they work with great energy like young people. They never say that they are tired. They love us and treat everyone with love. Mr. Egbert is a great animal lover also. He has made many tactile models for us to teach biology.



Our knowledge was very scanty when we came to the school but our dedicated teachers showed us how to live in society and lead a good life. Our voluntary teachers enrich our learning to a great extent. We are inspired by all the great teachers who teach us with interest and dedication. We are moved and touched by the way they moulded us. They

correct us gently when we make mistakes. We have had very pleasant experience with our principal and all teachers and consider ourselves very fortunate. We have a good computer lab, library and science lab.

We wish to acknowledge the great foundation laid by the famous couple Dr.A.S.Goud and Mrs.Jyothi Goud. They encourage us in every possible way: we wish to thank them by studying well and proving ourselves in society. If any one asks us, 'Is there a God?' We answer that He is there because He made people like our founders, all the faculty members, the helpers and everyone including the birds animals and plants. Dr and Mrs.Goud are like seeds, our teachers are like roots and we are the plants. The roots give energy to the stems to grow and branch out and we grow like flowers. Dr.& Mrs.Goud gave us a foundation and a strong determination that nothing is impossible. Our parents gave us birth but they gave us rebirth by providing us with a school where we receive sound education and imbibe values. We are grateful!

## The Power of Peace

(Essay selected for Interschool competition, organized by Lion Club)

- Sai Teja, Class VIII

There is no way to peace, peace is the way. "when you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live st peace with others. Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.. Peace is the mother of progress and without peace a nation cannot make any progress. So peace is ever desirable. But now a days if there be no peace, the whole human race will be destroyed.

Some people who have seen war stories in the movies or on TV may have been impressed by it, finding it some how attractive and feeling that the actors looked glamorous and brave. The reality of war, however is completely different. It is cruel and filthy and filled with sadness and misery. Anyone who has actually experienced war knows it must never be repeated. Each person who has died in war was irreplaceable and precious- someone's parent, child or friend. Buddhism teaches that war is the result of anger and egotism. To overcome the threat of war, we must conquer and subdue the selfish nature that lurks in every human heart.

Natural disasters such as flood, or earthquakes cannot be prevented by human reason or wisdom. But problems that are caused by human beings themselves can he resolved

by human beings. I also hold that an inner change in the depths of people's lives can transform egoism and replace it with a loving humanism that seeks peace and coexistence among all people.

Peace is safety. Peace is non-violence. Peace is a feeling that no one will hurt your body or your feelings on purpose. With peace your rights are respected, your needs met.

All people need peace. War is expensive, peace is priceless. Anything war can do, Non-violence can do better. To support this statement I can take the name of a great person Mahatma Gandhi. We all know how he achieved independence to a great nation India, through non-violence. Many people like mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela etc came into limelight only through peace.

For you can meet those challenges with love and grace and the positive power of peaceful purpose. Instead of getting caught up in the conflict, with the power of peace you can find a positive way to successfully move beyond it.

No one can take peace away from you when you step forward and offer it first. Keep peace in your thoughts, and put real, meaningful power in your life.



## Calendar of Events

### June 2010

- 10<sup>th</sup> 30 members from Delloitle company conducted competitions for the students and gave head phones for the college student.
- 12-13<sup>th</sup> 'Ability Mela' was conducted for the students in Sweekar Upkar.
- 14<sup>th</sup> School reopened after the summer vacation.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Universal Braille kits were distributed by Worth Trust.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Lions club of Secunderabad organised a programme for the students. – 130th birth anniversary of Dr. Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan awards ceremony was celebrated at Taj Banjara. Two of our teachers were felicitated and were given awards. – Amway group conducted debate in the school.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha's birthday was remembered by the students and they received prizes from Ramananda Thirtha Ashram.

### July, 2010

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 25 members from Franklin Templeton Visited the school and involved the students in games and quiz.
- 4<sup>th</sup> On the occasion of chief minister Sri Rosiah's birthday, I-pods were distributed to the students.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Late chief minister Sri Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy's birthday was remembered in the school. Fruits were distributed.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Founder's day (Padmashri Dr. Sai baba's birthday) was celebrated grandly. Medical Camp was organised in the school. Mahender, Pushparaj, Ajay were felicitated on their selection to take part in International cricket Tournament to be held in London. Lions District governor S.S. Malhotra, Lion Noushin Mehta and Ms. Padma Rajgopal were present. Lunch was hosted to all by the management.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Students took part in Telugu recitation. Competition in Potti Sri Ramulu Telugu University. 3 of our students won prizes.
- 25<sup>th</sup> 114 MP3 players were donated by the Chairman Mr. Sri Kumar of Samrathi Trust to the Junior College Students. Mr. Hari Kumar, Gen. Manager of State Bank and Ms. Anita Rajendran, Commissioner disability Welfare were present and addressed the students.
- 26<sup>th</sup> A.P. Power diploma Engineers Association donated computers to the school. Mr. M.T. Krishna Balu I.A.S. , CMD , Mr. Arjunudu Chairman of Trust, Mr. Beesi Reddy, Secretary general A.P. Power diploma Engineers and others were present.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Some Volunteers from Tata consultancy service visited the school and interacted with the students. 3 students went to D.R.S.I.S. International School to create awareness among them about the potential of V.I. children.
- 31<sup>st</sup> 60 students from St. Mary's College visited the school with their lecturers.

### August, 2010

- 2<sup>nd</sup> School kids from Kangaroo School visited the school and interacted with their counterparts here.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. Roy and Mr. Jim from U.S.A visited the school along with other members from Prokarma.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Some friends from T.C.S. visited he school. 6 students from our school went to Usha Kiran movies and showcased their talents.

- 15<sup>th</sup> Independence day was celebrated in the school with patriotic spirit. Mr. Venkat Rao I.P.S. (Rtd) hoisted the national flag and gave a speech. Prof. Sridhar Murty and Inner wheel club members addressed the students.
- 16<sup>th</sup> M.B.A. College students with their professors visited the school and appreciated the facilities provided in the school.
- 19<sup>th</sup> 36 nursing students from Vijay Mary College of Nursing visited the school.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan visited the school and interacted with the students.

### September, 2010

- 4<sup>th</sup> Teacher's day was celebrated in the school with Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan as the chief guest. The management felicitated all the teachers , Mr. Pushparaj, a Visually Challenged Teacher and Mahender who represented India in the cricket match played in England. Kirushi foundation and also G.E. Company honoured some teachers.
- 11<sup>th</sup> J.C.I. Hyderabad Deccan organised singing and quiz competition for the students and gave prizes.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Some students presented a colourful cultural programme in J.N.T.U.
- 13<sup>th</sup> B.Ed Special Education (H. I.) Team for Ambedkar open University visited the school.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Junior College students were taken to Puttaparuthi by Dr. & Mrs. Goud.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Addl. D.G.P. Sri Rama Murthy visited the school.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Cine Stars Harsha Vardhan Rane and Aditi Chengappa visited the school and interacted with the students.

### October, 2010

- 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct - Quarterly Exam for the High School section.
- 7-19<sup>th</sup> Dassera Vacation.
- 19<sup>th</sup> The school reopened after Dassera Vacation.
- 21<sup>st</sup> White cane day was celebrated in the school. The programme was sponsored by Amway freedom foundation. Dr. Vivekanand M.P was the Chief Guest. Dr. Kasu Prasad Reddy, Maxi Vision, Mr. Pankaj, and others from Amway foundation were present. White canes were distributed to the students.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Evening - 10 officers from I.R.S visited the school and interacted with the students. Friends from Amway conducted a programme for students on White Cane day.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Ms. Arisha Sharma from Radio Mirchi and her friends visited the school and showed a movie to the students.
- 24<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank holders from class V to VII went to I.S.B. along with other students and were given MP4 players.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Some students were taken to Jala Vihar by T.V.9 and they met Cine stars Udaya Kiran & Sweta Basu Prasad.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Students gave a very good programme in Vasavi Engg College. Around 10 members from Pro Karma, U.S.A. visited the school and lauded the work done in the school.

### November, 2010

- 5<sup>th</sup> Some students went to Raj Bhavan to wish the Governor of A.P on Diwali day.